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12	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
13	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA			
14	I ADGO CONCRETE INC. a California	Case No. C07-04651 CRB (ADR)		
15	LARGO CONCRETE, INC., a California Corporation; N.M.N. CONSTRUCTION, INC., a California Corporation,	Hon. Charles R. Breyer [Complaint Filed: September 10, 2007]		
16	Plaintiffs,	OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS' EX		
17	v.	PARTE APPLICATION FOR A STAY PENDING DISPOSITION OF PETITION		
18	LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE	FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS AND FOR RULINGS ON OBJECTIONS TO		
19 20	COMPANY, a Massachusetts Corporation, and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,	EVIDENCE		
	Defendants.			
21	AND DELATED COLDITED OLADA			
22	AND RELATED COUNTERCLAIM			
23				
24	Plaintiffs' ex parte application -	- for a stay pending a yet-to-be-filed		
25	^ ^ ^	• 1		
26	mandamus petition and for rulings on objections made to evidence submitted with a matter heard six weeks ago is unauthorized by statute, rule or order, and unwarranted by any			
27	circumstance requiring immediate relief. It should be denied.			
28	on community in infection reflect. It should be deflied.			

A. Introduction

This Court heard Liberty Mutual's motion to disqualify plaintiffs' counsel on December 21, 2007, signed an order granting the motion on December 31, 2007 and entered its order on January 2, 2008. Four weeks passed, and plaintiffs did nothing, other than stipulate with Liberty Mutual to continue the case management conference date and related deadlines. On January 29, 2008, plaintiffs' counsel gave notice that it would file an *ex parte* application for a stay pending interlocutory appellate proceedings that plaintiffs have not yet initiated. Later that day, plaintiffs e-mailed its application which, in addition to seeking a stay pending disposition of an apparently planned petition for a writ of mandamus, applies *ex parte* for rulings on objections that plaintiffs asserted to some of the evidence supporting the disqualification motion heard on December 21, 2007.

Plaintiffs do not suggest that any emergency requires this Court's immediate attention. They do not explain their four weeks of inaction following the Court's January 2, 2008 entry of the disqualification order, or offer any reason why they did not proceed by noticed motion under Local Rule 7-2(a). No statute, rule or standing order authorizes the requested *ex parte* relief under the circumstances presented here. Plaintiffs cite paragraph 4 of this Court's Standing Order, but do not even attempt to explain why it applies here, why they failed to seek a stipulation for any part of the relief they now request, or why such a stipulation was "not possible." Their *ex parte* application is procedurally defective and lacks merit, and should be denied.

Plaintiffs' ex parte application also lacks substantive merit. Plaintiffs acknowledge that their request for a stay requires them to demonstrate a probability that they will succeed on the merits of their writ petition. Yet, since plaintiffs have not yet filed their petition, this Court has nothing to review but its own order, and is in no position to determine whether plaintiffs' theoretical petition has merit. Plaintiffs acknowledge that

the fundamental elements of mandamus relief require them to show "clear error" by this Court, or that the order involved an issue of first impression. As briefly set forth below, plaintiffs have not met their burden, and there is no basis whatsoever for this Court to second-guess its January 2, 2008 Order at plaintiffs' *ex parte* invitation. If plaintiffs want a stay, they should file their petition for a writ and ask the Court of Appeal to determine whether it has sufficient merit to warrant the issuance of a stay.

Plaintiffs' other *ex parte* request -- for rulings on objections made to evidence submitted with a motion heard six weeks ago -- is not authorized under the Local Rules or this Court's Standing Order, and should be denied on this ground alone. However, if for any reason the Court is inclined to consider plaintiffs' request, then Liberty Mutual asks that the Court (a) review Liberty Mutual's opposition to plaintiffs' objections [a copy is attached as Exhibit A], which demonstrates that the plaintiffs' objections lack merit and should be overruled, and (b) review and rule upon Liberty Mutual's Objections to the evidence submitted by plaintiffs.

B. Ex Parte Relief is Unauthorized and Unwarranted

Under the Local Rules, all motions must be filed and served on 35 days written notice "except as otherwise ordered or permitted by the assigned Judge or these Local Rules." [Local Rule 7-2(a)]. A party may file an *ex parte* motion "only if a statute, Federal Rule, local rule or Standing Order authorizes the filing of an ex parte motion in the circumstances and the party has complied with the applicable provisions allowing the party to approach the Court on an ex parte basis." [Local Rule 7-10]. A party moving *ex parte* must "include a citation to the statute, rule or order which permits the use of an ex parte motion to obtain the relief sought." [Id.]

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Here, citing only paragraph 4 of this Court's Standing Order as support for their use of *ex parte* procedures, plaintiffs make two requests: (a) a stay pending disposition of a writ petition that they have not yet filed, and (b) rulings on objections made to evidence submitted prior to the December 21, 2007 hearing of Liberty Mutual's motion to disqualify plaintiffs' counsel.

Neither of plaintiffs' requests should be granted *ex parte*. Considering them in reverse order, this Court's Standing Order does not permit the use of *ex parte* procedures to seek rulings on objections to evidence. The Standing Order applies *only* to requests for continuances, special status conference requests, briefing schedules, and "other procedural changes." It provides no basis whatsoever for seeking rulings on evidence *ex parte*. Plaintiffs' *ex parte* application for rulings on evidence, relating to a motion heard six weeks ago, is unauthorized and should be denied.

Plaintiffs' ex parte application for a stay should also be denied. First, under paragraph 4 of the Standing Order, plaintiffs cannot show that obtaining a stipulation for a stay pending interlocutory appellate proceedings was "not possible." There is no evidence that plaintiffs' counsel ever asked for a stipulation, or that they ever discussed the topic with Liberty Mutual's counsel, and hence, plaintiffs have not shown and cannot show that their ex parte application is necessary. Moreover, while plaintiffs argue that this Court should stay further proceedings "pending disposition of Largo's Petition for Writ of Mandamus," they have neither filed a writ petition nor indicated when, if ever, they intend to do so. Even if the Court is inclined to issue a stay while pending the completion of interlocutory appellate proceedings, it should not do so without imposing on plaintiffs a reasonable deadline for filing their appellate petition.

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C. Plaintiffs Have Not Met and Cannot Meet their Burden of Demonstrating Entitlement to a Stay Pending the Outcome of Interlocutory Appellate **Proceedings**

Plaintiffs contend that a stay is warranted because they are "likely to succeed on the merits" of their planned petition for a writ of mandamus. In so doing, plaintiffs ignore "the starting point" of mandamus evaluations under Bauman v. United States District Court, 557 F.2d 650 (1977): "The remedy of mandamus is a drastic one, to be involved only in extraordinary situations." Id., at 654, quoting Kerr v. United States District Court, 426 U.S. 394, 402 (1976); see also Cole v. United States District Court, 366 F.3d 813, 818 (9th Cir. 2004)(mandamus is an "extraordinary remedy which should be sparingly employed".) Plaintiffs argue that they are "likely to succeed on the merits," heavily discounting the Bauman courts' guideline that mandamus should issue only when "the district court's order is clearly erroneous as a matter of law," 557 F.2d at 654, and its analysis of four prior Ninth Circuit decisions in which mandamus was granted, all involving district court decisions that it characterized as "quite clearly erroneous," "clearly erroneous," "both novel and not authorized by any rule," or "clearly wrong." Id., at p. 655.

While a showing of "clear error" may not always be necessary under Bauman, "absence of clear error is often dispositive" of a mandamus petition, and is "highly significant." Cole, supra, 366 F.3d at 820.

Here, plaintiffs' contend that this Court committed "clear error" by "failing to apply the modified substantial interest test" in deciding the defendant's motion to disqualify plaintiffs' counsel. Plaintiffs' contention is entirely misplaced. As this Court found, solidly relying on Adams v. Aerojet-General Corp., 86 Cal.App.4th 1324 (2001) and Ochoa v. Fordel, 146 Cal.App.4th 898 (2007), the modified substantial interest test applies "only when the lawyer with the alleged conflict never provided any legal services to the

client in a substantially related matter or otherwise." [January 2, 2008 Order, p. 5, lines 18-19.] The legal services that Mr. Pynes performed for plaintiff and its affiliates compelled the Court's determination, under California law, that the "traditional substantial interest test" applied. That determination cannot reasonably be characterized as "clearly erroneous," because it was, in fact, clearly correct.

Plaintiffs also contend that California law is "trending" toward acceptance of ethical walls as shields against otherwise illegal conflicts of interest, and therefore argue, citing another <u>Bauman</u> factor, that this Court's order raises "important problems or issues of first impression" that should be addressed on mandamus. Plaintiffs are wrong, because there is nothing new here, for either this Court or the Ninth Circuit to address. As this Court pointed out in <u>Hitachi, Ltd. v. Tatung Co.</u>, 419 F.Supp.2d 1158 (N.D. Cal. 2006), California rejects ethical walls. Moreover, as the Court noted in its January 2, 2008 Order,

"plaintiffs do not cite any case decided since <u>Hitachi</u> that casts doubt on this holding; to the contrary, since the Court's opinion the California Supreme Court has again rejected an ethical wall, albeit in the context of the San Francisco City Attorney. <u>City and County of San Francisco v. Cobra Solutions</u>, 38 Cal.4th 839 (2006)." [January 2, 2008 Order, p. 7, lines 6-10.]

In summary, while this *ex parte* proceeding is not the place to fully brief plaintiffs' petition for a writ of mandamus, it is more than clear that plaintiffs' will not be able to demonstrate "clear error" in the Court's Disqualification Order, or that this Court ploughed new ground when it issued that order. If plaintiffs desire a stay, they should file their writ petition and ask the Court of Appeal for stay, allowing the Ninth Circuit to determine whether plaintiffs' writ petition has sufficient merit to warrant a stay.

D. There Is No Basis Whatsoever for Plaintiffs' Ex Parte Request for Rulings on Objections to Evidence

In essence, plaintiffs have asked this Court to "clean up the record," before they file their writ petition, by issuing specific rulings on the evidence supporting plaintiffs' disqualification motion. Plaintiffs cite no authority supporting their request; they merely re-state the objections they previously filed.

If for any reason the Court is inclined to grant plaintiffs' unsupported request, Liberty Mutual requests two things. First, Liberty Mutual asks the Court to consider Liberty Mutual's opposition to plaintiffs' objections [Exhibit A], which demonstrate that plaintiffs objections lack merit and should be denied. Second, Liberty Mutual asks that the Court *also* rule on *Liberty Mutual's* objections to the evidence submitted by plaintiffs in opposition to the disqualification motion. [Exhibit B]

E. Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, defendant respectfully asks that this Court deny plaintiffs' *ex parte* application.

Dated: January 30, 2008

SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP

By JAMES F. McSHANE

Attorneys for Defendant and Counterclaimant LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

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DISQUALIFY

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Plaintiffs' purported objections to LMFIC's evidence are not really objections at all. Rather than stating proper objections under the Rules of Evidence and the legal grounds supporting them, plaintiffs assert additional legal argument, in violation of the 25 page limit on points and authorities [Local Rule 7-3(a)]. Plaintiffs' thinly disguised effort to use purported "objections" as an opportunity for further briefing is improper. Their "objections" should be overruled in their entirety.

T.

THE COURT SHOULD OVERRULE PLAINTIFFS' OBJECTIONS TO THE LISA HANSEN DECLARATION

Plaintiffs argue that the Declaration of Lisa Kralik Hansen is "irrelevant, based on speculation, . . . is inherently weak, and is not the best evidence available" [Objections, p. 1], but fail to specify any statement she made that is allegedly irrelevant, based on speculation, inherently weak, or not the "best evidence." [See Objections, pp. 1-3]. The Court should summarily overrule these objections Because Plaintiffs fail to identify the basis for them. Fed. R. Evid. 103.

Plaintiffs argue that certain statements in the Hansen Declaration are "misleading" because they lack specificity on irrelevant issues. "Misleading" is not an evidentiary objection, it is pure argument that should be reserved for the briefs.

Plaintiffs next argue that Ms. Hansen "falsely" asserted that she represented a Liberty Mutual entity. Plaintiffs are wrong as a matter of law. Ms. Hansen properly stated that she represented the Liberty Mutual companies in the <u>Tony's Fine Foods</u> matter based on the fact that she worked at Kern and Wooley LLP ("K&W"). <u>Streit v. Covington & Crowe</u>, 82 Cal. App. 4th 441, 445 (2000)(an attorney-client relationship exists between the client and any attorney that is a partner of or employed by the retained attorney).

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Plaintiffs argue that paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Hansen Declaration should be stricken because they are based on hearsay statements by Ms. Yee. [Objections, p. 2]. This argument is irrelevant because the alleged hearsay declarant, Ms. Yee, testifies to the same facts in her declaration. [Yee Decl., ¶ 5]. Therefore, facts regarding Mr. Pynes's work on the Tony's Fine Foods matter, whether attested to by Ms. Hansen or Ms. Yee, are competent evidence that the Court should consider in ruling on this Motion.

Plaintiffs falsely claim that Ms. Hansen stated in her declaration that she "trained" or "supervised" Mr. Pynes on the <u>Tony's Fine Foods</u> matter. [Objections, p. 3]. In fact, Ms. Hansen stated that she often supervised Mr. Pynes' work at K&W and that she discussed Mr. Pynes's work on the <u>Tony's Fine Foods</u> matter with him. [Hansen Decl., ¶¶ 3, 7].

Finally, Plaintiffs argue that Ms. Hansen's entire declaration should be "stricken" because she "has demonstrated extreme bias in favor of Liberty" because Liberty Mutual has not retained her in any new cases during the last 11 months. (Objections, p. 3). Plaintiffs' objection is factually and logically unsupported, as Ms. Hansen's bias, if any, could as easily be *against* Liberty Mutual for not hiring her as in favor of Liberty Mutual because she wants future business. Plaintiffs merely presume the latter, citing nothing in support. In any event, alleged bias is not a proper grounds for excluding otherwise admissible witness statements. <u>DiCarlo v. Keller Ladders, Inc.</u>, 211 F.3d 465, 468 (8th Cir. 2000) (bias goes to the weight of the evidence, not its admissibility); accord Estate of Russell, 189 Cal. 759, 769 (1922). Following Plaintiffs' dubious logic that a declaration should be stricken due to witness bias, the Court should strike the declarations of Messrs. Pynes, Roxborough, Adreani and Phillips, whose biases, as opposing counsel, are overwhelming.

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	Case 3:07-cv-04651-CRB Document 57 Filed 12/14/2007 Page 6 of 6		
1	III.		
2	CONCLUSION		
3			
4	For all of the foregoing reasons, the Court should overrule Plaintiffs' Objections in		
5	their entirety.		
6			
7	Dated: December 14, 2007		
8	SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP		
9			
10	By July 1		
11	FRANK FALZETTA Attorneys for Defendant and Counterclaimant		
12	LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE		
13	INSURANCE COMPANY		
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	w02-WEST:1JMJ2'400602351.1 LIBERTY MUTUAL'S OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS'		
THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN	OBJECTIONS TO EVIDENCE SUPPORTING MOTION TO DISQUALIFY		

Page 14 of 21 Case 3:07-cv-04651-CRB Document 56 Filed 12/14/2007 Page 1 of 15 FRANK FALZETTA, Cal. Bar No. 125146 SCOTT SVESLOSKY, Cal. Bar No. 217660 SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP 333 South Hope Street, 48th Floor Los Angeles, California 90071-1448 Telephone: 213-620-1780 213-620-1398 Facsimile: ffalzetta@sheppardmullin.com ssveslosky@sheppardmullin.com TED C. LINDQUIST, III, Cal. Bar No. 178523 SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP Four Embarcadero Center, 17th Floor San Francisco, California 94111-4109 Telephone: 415-434-9100 Facsimile: 415-434-3947 tlindquist@sheppardmullin.com Attorneys for Defendant and Counterclaimant LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY 11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 12 13 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA LARGO CONCRETE, INC., a California 14 Case No. C07-04651 CRB (ADR) Corporation; N.M.N. CONSTRUCTION, 15 INC., a California Corporation, Hon. Charles R. Breyer [Complaint Filed: September 10, 2007] 16 Plaintiffs. [PROPOSED] ORDER ON LIBERTY 17 v. MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY'S OBJECTIONS TO THE 18 LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE DECLARATIONS SUBMITTED IN COMPANY, a Massachusetts Corporation. SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive. 19 OPPOSITION TO LIBERTY MUTUAL'S MOTION TO DISQUALIFY THE 20 Defendants. ROXBOROUGH FIRM 21 22 Date: December 21, 2007 23 Time: 10:00 a.m. Place: Courtroom 8 AND RELATED COUNTERCLAIM 25 26 27 28 W02-WEST:1JMJ2\400597349.3 [PROPOSED] ORDER ON OBJECTIONS TO PLAINTIFFS' EVIDENCE

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1	Portion of Declaration	<u>Objections</u>	Ruling
2	(Roxborough Decl., p. 10:18-20.)		
3	11. In addition, I have reviewed	7 1 5 1 1 7 1 1 600	
4	,	Lacks foundation. Fed. R. Evid. 602.	☐ Sustained ☐ Overruled
5	the pleadings identified on this	Hearsay. Fed. R. Evid. 802.	☐ Sustained
6	docket sheet and determined that		☐ Overruled
7	neither Ms. Yee nor Lisa Kralik		
8	Hansen's name appear on any of the		
9	listed pleadings and the only		
10	pleading executed by Ms. Hansen		
11	was the Notice of Ex Parte		
12	Application and Ex Parte		
	Application for an Order Staying the		
13	Action by Stipulation. Although this		
14	document was executed by Ms.		
15	Hansen, her name does not appear as		
16	attorney of record; it appears she		
17	executed the pleading simply on		
18	behalf of Susan Olson.		
19			
20	(Roxborough Decl., pp. 11:1-6.)		
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	W02-WEST:1JMJ2'400597349.3	[PROPOSED] ORDER OF PLAIN	N OBJECTIONS TO NTIFFS' EVIDENCE

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1	Portion of Declaration	<u>Objections</u>	Ruling
2	Kimco indicate that all of the	Hoorsey End P Frid 2002	
3	documents Liberty Fire considered	Hearsay. Fed. R. Evid. 802.	☐ Sustained☐ Overruled☐
4	its training and adjusting "manuals"		
5	were produced to me, and Bates		
6	labeled Nos. LM 50869-5 1987.		
7	(Administration 5:2.4)		
8	(Adreani Decl., p. 5:2-4.)		
9	6. I also specifically recall	Lacks foundation. Fed. R. Evid. 602.	☐ Sustained
10	Liberty Fire's counsel	II Full D. Fuit 200	Overruled
11	acknowledging to me on the record	Hearsay. Fed. R. Evid. 802.	☐ Sustained ☐ Overruled
12	of a deposition that, with regard to		
13	workers' compensation training and		
14	adjusting manuals used by Liberty		
15	Fire, "all such documents had been	ı	
16	produced" in the Kimco case.	·	•
17	(Adreani Decl., p. 5:6-9.)		
18	(Adream Deci., p. 5.0-5.)		
19	7. It was well known to Ms.	Lacks foundation. Fed. R. Evid. 602.	☐ Sustained
20	Hansen and Ms. Olson that Mr.		☐ Overruled
21	Pynes was working at my firm at the		
22	time the RemedyTemp case was		,
23	filed.		
24	(Adressi Deal n 6:1.2)		
25	(Adreani Decl., p. 6:1-2.)		
26	8. On one occasion, early in the	Lacks foundation. Fed. R. Evid. 602.	☐ Sustained
27	case at an in person "meet and	Hannes Tad D Tuid 800	Overruled
28	· ·	Hearsay. Fed. R. Evid. 802.	☐ Sustained ☐ Overruled
	WO2 WEST, 13412/400507740 2	-9-	21.00.110.110.110

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1	Portion of Declaration	<u>Objections</u>	Ruling
2	confer" under Central District Local		
3	Rule 7 at my office, both Ms.		
4	Hansen and Ms. Olson said hello to		The state of the s
5	Mr. Pynes personally while in my		
6	office. On other occasions both Ms.		
7	Hansen and Ms. Olson asked me to		
8	say hello to Mr. Pynes.		
9	(Ad: Thed (.5.0.)		
10	(Adreani Decl., p. 6:5-8.)		
11	9. During the course of the	Lacks foundation. Fed. R. Evid. 602.	☐ Sustained
12	RemedyTemp case, I have received		☐ Overruled
13	through discovery and Rule 26 all of		
14	the same training and adjusting		
15	materials I received in the Kimco		
16	case, all with Liberty's full		
17	knowledge of Mr. Pynes'		
18	employment at my firm.		
19	(Administration (40.14)		
20	(Adreani Decl., p. 6:9-14.)		
21	10. At that time, co-counsel in	Lacks foundation. Fed. R. Evid. 602.	☐ Sustained
22	Kentucky had long since obtained all		☐ Overruled
23	of the workers' compensation		
24	training and adjusting manuals,		
25	including Best Practices, from		
26	Liberty. These were all of the same		
27	documents I had seen in Kimco and		
28			
	W02-WEST:1JMJ2'400597349.3	-10- [PROPOSED] ORDER O	N ORIECTIONS TO
}		PLAT	NTIFFS' EVIDENCE

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compensation bad faith claims

[PROPOSED] ORDER ON OBJECTIONS TO PLAINTIFFS' EVIDENCE

Case 3:07-cv-04651-CRB Document 81 Filed 01/30/2008 Page 19 of 21 Case 3:07-cv-04651-CRB Document 56 Filed 12/14/2007 Page 12 of 15 1 Portion of Declaration **Objections** Ruling 2 mishandling matters. 3 (Pynes Decl., p. 4:17-20.) 4 5 3. At no time during my Lacks foundation. Fed. R. Evid. 602. ☐ Sustained ☐ Overruled employment with Kern & Wooley Improper legal conclusion. Fed. R. ☐ Sustained did I obtain any information that was Evid. 701. ☐ Overruled confidential to Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Company's, or any other 10 Liberty entity, regarding their policies or strategies associated with 11 12 workers' compensation bad faith

13 claims mishandling litigation. (Pynes Decl., p. 4:21-24.) 15 4. Before leaving Kern & Hearsay. Fed. R. Evid. 802. ☐ Sustained 16 ☐ Overruled Wooley, I personally discussed my 17 offer to work for Roxborough, 18 Pomerance & Nye with Lisa Kralik 19 Hansen. We specifically discussed 20 that the Roxborough, Pomerance & 21 Nye firm handles workers' 22 compensation bad faith claims cases 23 distinct from the type of work I had 24 done at Kern & Wooley. She agreed 25 that this was a completely new area 26 of practice for me and a wonderful 27 opportunity for me to learn a 28 -12

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[PROPOSED] ORDER ON OBJECTIONS TO PLAINTIFFS' EVIDENCE

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	Case 3.07-04-04651-CRB	Document 56	Filed 12/14/2007	Page 14 of 15
1	IT IS HEREE	BY ORDERED AN	ID ADJUDGED that LI	MFIC's evidentiary
2	objections are GRANTED as	s marked above.		
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4	IT IS SO ORDERED.			
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1	Darmostfully Culpmitted by			
1	Respectfully Submitted by:			
2	Dated: December 14, 2007			
3		SHEPPARD, M	ULLIN, RICHTER & I	HAMPTON LLP
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5		By	TED CAINDO	WT III TRILIC
6		At	torneys for Defendant :	and Counterclaimant
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